

Serial No. 10/051,807  
Election and Amendment dated August 5, 2003  
Reply to Election of July 14, 2003

REMARKS

The Election/Restriction dated July 14, 2003 has been received and its contents carefully noted.

In view of the foregoing election and amendments, and following representations, reconsideration and examination are respectfully requested.

Examiner Shakeri is thanked for the courtesies extended to undersigned counsel during the telephone call of July 8, 2003, in which Examiner Shakeri requested an oral election. Applicant was unavailable, and Examiner Shakeri kindly send out this written Restriction Requirement.

Applicant has elected Examiner-Designated Invention II, claims 4-10, and 11-15, drawn to a blasting device.

Examiner Shakeri is correct that the subcombinations are usable together and usable separately.

However, by the present amendment, and by the claims as filed, linking claims were presented and it is requested that Examiner Shakeri examine non-elected claims 1-3 at the same time he examines the remaining claims.

Linking claims were present in the application as filed, and an independent, linking claim 11 is set forth in the present amendment, and it is respectfully submitted that not only would there be common search areas owing to the presence of dependent, linking claims, but that the searching of the two subcombinations

Serial No. 10/051,807  
Election and Amendment dated August 5, 2003  
Reply to Election of July 14, 2003

usable together will not present an undue burden on the Examiner.

In summary, Examiner Shakeri is requested to examine at least elected claims 4-10 and 11-15. Examiner Shakeri is likewise requested to examine non-elected claims 1-3 at the same time.

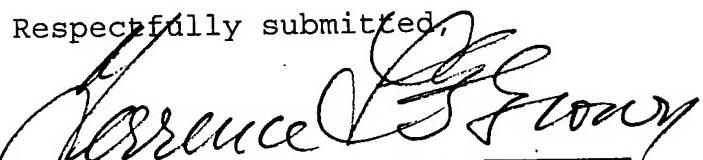
It is believed that no additional fee is due for this submission. Should that determination be incorrect; however, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies to our Deposit Account No. 19-2105, and notify the undersigned in due course.

Should any outstanding formal matters or other issues remain, please the Examiner is requested to telephone Terrence Brown to resolve such.

Date:

August 5, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

  
Terrence L.B. Brown  
Attorney for Applicant  
Reg. No. 32,685

SHLESINGER, ARKWRIGHT & GARVEY LLP  
3000 South Eads Street  
Arlington, Virginia 22202  
(703) 684-5600  
sb